

One inch margins

Smith 1

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### All in Vain

Mock on mock on; 'tis all in vain!  
You throw the sand against the wind,  
And the wind throws it back again.  
--William Blake

In the poem above by William Blake, mocking is considered useless in a sense that it will never affect anybody or anything. It is just as useless as throwing sand against the wind and the sand being blown right back to where it was first thrown. Although the person throwing the sand might not realize this and be blind to reality because he/she is so focused on his/her current state of emotion, the truth is that the person would soon come to his/her senses and laugh at him/herself for the futile mission. Similarly, the narrator in "Araby" by James Joyce is oblivious to the outside world and is confined to his obsession for Mangan's sister. Despite the fact that he is so obsessed and in love with Mangan's sister, his emotions are going to stay where they are as if they were thrown back with the wind, and he will realize how futile